

Helms Should Stay as CIA Chief

It is with great concern that I read that the President intends to accept the resignation of Mr. Richard Helms, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and possibly assign him some other "suitable job" within the administration.

Mr. Helms is a longtime professional intelligence officer who came up through the ranks and whose appointment to become director of CIA was a source of great joy to his colleagues within the American and friendly foreign intelligence community.

During his tenure of this office, he has molded the American intelligence effort away from the OSS and early post WWII-type Cold War operations to the current, more scientifically oriented collection efforts. By his professionalism and consideration he has brought unity to and raised the morale of the American intelligence community.

The appointment of an outsider, no matter how good his political or administrative qualifications may be, could lead to a serious weakening of the American intelligence effort and consequently endanger the security of the United States.

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CIA Critics Expect Too Much

In the press we can see today coming from the public and legislators, a series of criticisms against the CIA which claim that such an agency is amoral.

I think it is very difficult to morally measure an international secret agency with the same standards that we use to measure a national public agency. Simply because both of these agencies perform their activities in different environments with regards to morality -- whether we like it or not.

EMILIO ORTEGA

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Gullible Liberals Blame CIA

It has recently been noted that members of the Communist Party of America and of the Socialist Workers Party have been actively involved in the organization and funding of anti-war demonstrations from the time of the now-defunct New Mohe through the recent Mayday hassle. These facts have been brought to light not only by the House Internal Security Committee (which some would regard as an unobjective source) but also by the frank admission of demonstration leaders and participants themselves. Communist credo, whether we like to admit it or not, demands dedication to the overthrow of "capitalist" and "imperialist" political systems such as ours.

Liberal thinkers in our society take the fact of organized participation in our internal politics by groups representing foreign interests with surprising equanimity. The various

Stalinist, Maoist, Trotskyite factions are, they say, held in check in these organizations by loyal Americans who happen to dislike the war in Vietnam. The net effect, they say, is unsubversive.

It is surprising, though, to note these liberals' lack of equanimity whenever Sen. Fulbright or someone else makes a "spectacular" discovery of CIA funds being used for support of other countries in their internal problems. Even liberal thought in its most virulent form does not label the CIA a "subversive" organization.

Why, then, the uproar over CIA involvement in other countries when there is no parallel upset over Communist involvement at home? Can it really be true that our liberals prefer to credit the integrity of people dedicated to the overthrow of our government more than the integrity of those who work to support it? Such gullible self-hate does not speak well for people who claim to love their country and support its ideals.

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Costa Rica Plot Was Fabricated

Your well-touted Costa Rica "expose" leaves you with a nice gob of egg on your face. Evil perpetrators and piteous victims alike flatly deny any sign of a plot by the United States to oust President Figueres.

If Uncle Sam does indeed have a black eye (which I doubt) then The Herald gave it to him. As a recent visitor to tranquil Costa Rica, I find your effort to stir up trouble only slightly less nauseating than your hypocritical efforts to cover it up.

JETTISON SMITH